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**CHAPMAN FAMILY
PAPERS
1848-1881**

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INTRODUCTION

This collection contains primarily correspondence of the Chapman family members and friends. It includes Civil War letters, 1863-1864, written from Kentucky and Tennessee between William Harvey Chapman, Company I, 9th Tennessee Cavalry, USA, and his father, John Chapman. Other materials include advertisements, two Civil War-era ballads, legal documents, and pamphlets. Correspondents also include William L. Barbee, Ben F. Bratcher, Jason Chapman, John Evans, David Goin, E.H. Hollingsworth, Benjamin F. Mozingo, Nancy Robertson, and Joseph N. Travis.

The materials in this finding aid measures .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the material. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Chapman Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Chapman Family Papers, 1848-1881, consisting of about 100 items, are composed of letters, documents, pamphlets, and advertisements. The bulk of the collection is made up of letters to and from members of the Chapman family and their friends.

Sixteen of the letters were written home by William Harvey Chapman, 1863-1864, while serving in the Union Army, Company I, 9th Tennessee Cavalry. He was a native of Campbell County, Tennessee, and wrote to his father in Fincastle, Tennessee, from Camp Nelson, Kentucky; Cumberland Gap, Knoxville, Nashville, and Gallatin, Tennessee. He was in Nashville from February through April 1864, and in Gallatin from May until he died of diarrhea on July 20, 1864. His first letter, August 12, 1863, from Camp Nelson, Kentucky, tells of his volunteering for the 9th Tennessee Cavalry. His letter from Cumberland Gap, October 5, 1863, says that he has "a good horse to ride...good clothes and equipage and most of the time plenty to eat." The letter of December 17, 1863, describes what he saw at the siege of Knoxville. The next seven letters were written from or near Nashville, Tennessee, and tell that they "have neither horses nor guns...we have nothing to do only cook and eat...it makes a man feel so lazy and trifling." He describes the beautiful farms around Nashville and the beautiful orchard in which they were camped. The last few letters are from his camp near Gallatin and he writes "we have not got horses yet...the 13th Tenn. Cav. is out every day pressing horses from the Rebble citizens." His last letter, July 13, 1864, was written from a home near Gallatin on the Cumberland River where he was staying on account of his illness. He urges his father to come and see him.

There are eleven letters to him from his father, John Chapman, on his farm in Fincastle, all in 1864, with news of home, crops, et cetera; enclosing "baccow" for him and his friends; giving suggestions for treatment of his diarrhea; enumerating the produce the Union Army took from his farm for a small amount of money, et cetera.

There are five letters, 1854-1856, to William Harvey Chapman from his friend, William L. Barbee, who had gone to California to make his living. He writes from Sacramento in 1854-1855, and tells of the good climate; the scarcity of pretty girls; the prices of stock, wages for farm work, et cetera. He writes from Clarksville, El Dorado County, California, in 1856, telling again of prices, wages and how much money he has made; and commenting too on robbing and murdering being common occurrence. He emphasizes his desire to get a Tennessee girl for a wife and adjures William to "look out for a rib" for him.

Included are letters from some of William Harvey Chapman's fellow men-in-arms. Ben F. Bratcher writes in 1864 of the good companionship of William in camp, and later writes about his death at Gallatin, as do David Goin and E.H. Hollingsworth and Wiley B. Smith.

Letters from friends to William in the army include four from John Evans, 1864, with farm news, prices of produce, diversions, etc.; and how much he misses “yore row in the field.”

Documents include a power of attorney for John Chapman to act as executor for William Chapman’s estate, 1858; a military pass for John Chapman to go from Knoxville to Gallatin, July 27, 1864; his voter’s registration certificate, Campbell County, Tennessee, 1866; and a summons from the U.S. Assessor’s office of the Internal Revenue, 1867.

Included in the papers are three pamphlets: one on Reconstruction which is a discussion of H.R. No. 439 additional and supplementary to an act entitled “An act to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel states,” passed March 2, 1867, ...”; one on the record of the New York Democratic Convention titled *Treason and Democracy*, published by the Union Republican Congressional Committee, Washington, D.C., ca. 1868; and one headed, *Report of the Joint Committee on Reconstruction* (of the two houses of Congress) appointed under concurrent resolution of December 13, 1865, with direction “to inquire into the condition of the States which formed the so-called Confederate States of America, and report whether they or any of them are entitled to be represented in either house of Congress...”

There are two ballads included in the papers, one titled, “Things I don’t like to see,” which was sent by John Chapman to his son in the army, saying it was a song “a old Clown sung under the shade tree on the grindstone bench at my house one Evening...”; the other titled, “When I get in a weaving way,” sent by James Chapman to William in the army, and said to be a Negro song.

Advertisements include one for the Eastman National Business College, Chicago, Illinois, and Poughkeepsie, New York, describing the subjects and giving the tuition, 1866; an ad in the form of a letter in regard to the beginning of a new Republican paper, Knoxville, 1878, to be called “Knoxville Republican” and “to be the servant of the Party and not strive to be its Master”; and an ad of the World’s Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, New York, advertising its publication, “People’s Common Sense Medical Advisor,” and other articles sold with it at much reduced rates, such as a revolver, a watch, etc.

CONTAINER LIST

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15. Documents – 1858-1867
16. Pamphlets—1865-1868
17. Chapman family letters, 1854-1864 (typescripts)

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